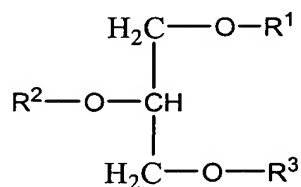


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (New): A method of reducing at least one skin damage in a subject in need thereof, comprising orally administering to the subject in need thereof a composition comprising at least one diacylglyceryl ether represented by the formula (I), in an amount sufficient to reduce the at least one skin damage:



wherein R^1 denotes C_{12-24} aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 2; R^2 denotes C_{12-24} acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6; and R^3 denotes C_{12-24} acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of between 0 and 6, and

wherein the at least one skin damage is selected from the group consisting of formation of skin cancer induced by ultraviolet light, formation of pigmented spots induced by ultraviolet light, formation of freckles induced by ultraviolet light, the formation of wrinkles induced by ultraviolet light, the formation of verrucae induced by ultraviolet light, and the formation of erythema induced by ultraviolet light.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one diacylglyceryl ether in the composition is orally administered at a dosage of between 10 mg and 5000 mg per day.

Claim 20 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein in formula (I), the ester terminating in the substituent R^2 is an ester of nervonic acid, docosahexaenoic acid, erucic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, arachidonic acid, gadoleic acid, α -linolenic acid, γ -linolenic acid, linoleic acid, oleic acid, octadecenoic acid, stearic acid, palmitoleic acid, palmitic acid, myristic acid, or lauric acid, and

wherein when more than one diacylglyceryl ether of formula (1) is present in the composition, each ester terminating in the substituent R^2 may be the same or different.

Claim 21 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein in the formula (I), the ester terminating in the substituent R^3 is an ester of nervonic acid, docosahexaenoic acid, erucic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, arachidonic acid, galoleic acid, α -linolenic acid, γ -linolenic acid, linoleic acid, oleic acid, octadecenoic acid, stearic acid, palmitoleic acid, palmitic acid, myristic acid, or lauric acid, and

wherein when more than one diacylglyceryl ether of formula (1) is present in the composition, each ester terminating in the substituent R^3 may be the same or different.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the composition is provided in the form of a processed food.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the composition is obtained from shark liver oil.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein in the at least one diacylglyceryl ether, R^1 denotes C_{18} aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a degree of unsaturation of 1, R^2

denotes C₁₈ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of 1, and R³ denotes C₁₈ acyl group having a degree of unsaturation of 1.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one diacylglycerol ether is orally administered at a dosage of between 100 mg and 2000 mg per day.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one diacylglycerol ether is orally administered at a dosage of between 500 mg and 2000 mg per day.

Claim 27 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the composition is provided in liquid form.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 27, wherein the liquid form is a suspension, emulsion, syrup, or elixir.

Claim 29 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the composition is provided in the form of a tablet, sustained-release tablet, granule, fine-grained agent, chewable tablet, sublingual tablet, or gum.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the oral administering is carried out once a day or at several separate instances a day.

Claim 31 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the composition further comprises at least one further component selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a binder, a

disintegrating agent, a surfactant, a lubricant, an agent for promoting flowability, a pH regulator, an absorption retarder, an antioxidant, an antiseptic, a corrigent, a colorant, an odorant, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one skin damage is the formation of skin cancer induced by ultraviolet light.

Claim 33 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one skin damage is the formation of freckles induced by ultraviolet light.

Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one skin damage is the formation of pigmented spots induced by ultraviolet light.

Claim 35 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one skin damage is the formation of verrucae induced by ultraviolet light.

Claim 36 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one skin damage is the formation of erythema induced by ultraviolet light.

Claim 37 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein in formula (I), the ether terminating in the substituent R¹ is an ether of dodecane, tridecane, tetradecane, pentadecane, hexadecane, heptadecane, octadecane, nonadecane, icosane, heneicosane, docosane, tricosane, or tetracosane; and

wherein when more than one diacylglyceryl ether of formula (1) is present in the composition, each ether terminating in the substituent R^1 may be the same or different.

Claim 38 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein the hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of dodecane, tridecane, tetradecane, pentadecane, hexadecane, heptadecane, octadecane, nonadecane, icosane, heneicosane, docosane, tricosane, and tetracosane further comprises a degree of unsaturation selected from the group consisting of 0, 1, and 2.